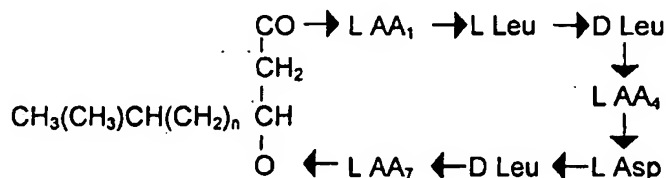


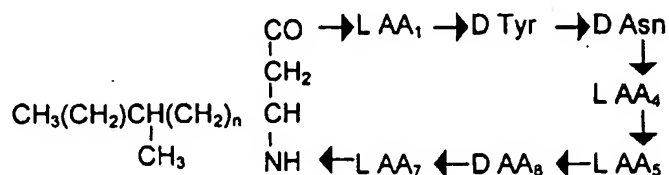
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of using lipopeptide preparations as anti-tilted-peptide agents.
2. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the lipopeptide preparations comprise lipopeptides which are selected from the group consisting of cyclic and linear lipopeptides, their ~~homologous~~ homologs and derivatives and mixtures thereof.
3. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein the cyclic lipopeptides are selected from the group consisting of surfactins, iturins and fengycins.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein surfactins have formula (I)



wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain is comprised between 12 to 17, n being comprised between 6 and 11, AA₁ is Glu or Gln, AA₄ is Val or Ala and AA₇ is Val, Ile or Leu.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to ~~any of claims 3 and 4~~ claim 3, wherein the surfactins are selected from the group consisting in a surfactin wherein n is comprised between 7 and 9, AA₁ is Glu, AA₄ is Val and AA₇ is Leu.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 5 wherein the surfactins are selected from the group consisting of an iso-branched ~~β-hydroxylethylhydroxylated~~ fatty acid chain containing 13 carbon atoms (SC 13), a surfactin with a linear ~~β-hydroxylethylhydroxylated~~ fatty acid chain containing 14 carbon atoms (SC14), and a surfactin with an iso-branched ~~β-hydroxylethylhydroxylated~~ fatty acid chain containing 15 carbon atoms (SC15).
7. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to ~~any of claims 3 to 6~~ claim 3, wherein the iturins have formula (II)



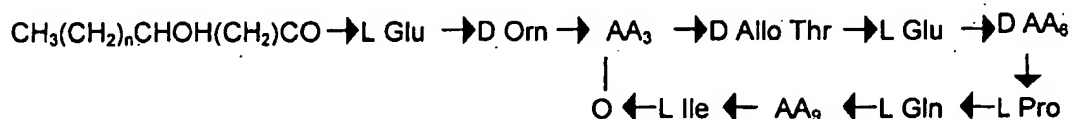
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wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain is comprised between from 13 to 17, n being comprised between 6 and 10, AA₁ is Asn or Asp, AA₄ is Gln, Pro or Ser, and AA₅ is Pro, Glu, or Gln, AA₆ is Asn or Ser, and AA₇ is Ser, Asn or Thr.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to ~~any of claims 3 and 7~~ claim 3, wherein the iturins are selected from the group consisting in an iturin wherein n is comprised between 7 and 10, AA₁ is Asn, AA₄ is Gln, AA₅ is Pro, AA₆ is Asn and AA₇ is Ser.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 8 wherein the iturins are selected from the group consisting of a linear β-amino fatty acid chain containing 14 carbon atoms (IC14), an iturin with an iso-branched β-amino fatty acid chain containing 15 carbon atoms (IC15), an iturin with an iso-branched or linear β-amino fatty acid chain containing 16 carbon atoms (IC16), an iturin with an anteiso-branched β-amino fatty acid chain containing 17 carbon atoms (IC17).

10. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to ~~any of claims 3 to 9~~ claim 3, wherein fengycins have formula (III)



wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain is comprised between from 12 to 18, n being comprised between 8 and 14, AA₃ is D Tyr or L Tyr, AA₆ is Val or Ala, and AA₉ is L Tyr or D Tyr.

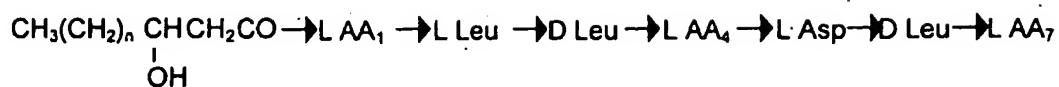
11. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 10, wherein fengycin is fengycin A with a β-hydroxyledehydroxylated fatty acid chain containing 16 carbon atoms (FAC16), wherein AA₃ is D Tyr, AA₆ is Ala and AA₉ is L Tyr.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 2, wherein the linear lipopeptides are selected from the group consisting of surfactins, iturins and fengycins.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 12, wherein each of the linear lipopeptides is obtainable by chemical modification of the corresponding cyclic lipopeptide.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 13, wherein the linear lipopeptides (LSC12 to LSC17 have formula (IV)

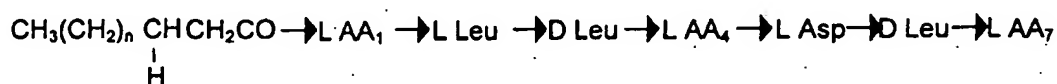
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wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain is comprised between 12 and 17, n being comprised between 8 and 13.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 12, wherein each of the linear lipopeptides is obtainable by chemical synthesis.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 15, wherein each of the linear lipopeptides (LSSC4 to LSSC24) has the formula (V)



wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain is 4 to 24; n being comprised between 0 and 20.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to ~~any of claims 14 and 16~~ claim 14, wherein AA₁ is Glu or Gln, AA₄ is Val or Ala and AA₇ is Val, Ile or Leu.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 17, wherein AA₁ is Glu, AA₄ is Val and AA₇ is Leu.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the lipopeptide preparations comprise at least two lipopeptides.

20. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the lipopeptides belong to different lipopeptide families.

21. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 20, wherein one of the lipopeptides is selected from the group consisting of SC13 and SC15 and the other lipopeptide is FAC16.

22. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the lipopeptides have been obtained by a method chosen from biosynthesis by a micro-organism, chemical synthesis and chemical modifications of ~~biosynthesised~~ biosynthesized lipopeptides.

23. (Currently amended) ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 22, wherein the micro-organism is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting ~~in~~ of *Pseudomonas spp.*, *Bacillus spp.*, *Arthrobacter spp.*, *Streptomyces spp.*, *Serratia sp.*, *Gluconbacter spp.*, and *Agrobacterium spp.*

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24. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein the species are ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, and *Bacillus globigii*, *Streptomyces aurantiacus*, *Arthrobacter* MIS 38, *Serratia marcescens*, *Gluconobacter cerinu*, and *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

25. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein the *Bacillus subtilis* is a strain ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of ATCC 7067 and S499.

26. (Currently amended) ~~Process for the production of~~ A method of producing a lipopeptide preparation according to ~~any of claims 22 to 25~~ claim 22, which comprises an aerobic step followed by a microaerobic step.

27. (Currently amended) ~~Process according to~~ The method of claim 26, which produces a foam containing a concentrated mixture of different lipopeptide families.